

**FY 2016**  
**SMALL NEPA PROJECT DESCRIPTION**  
**Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests**

Please **do not leave any field BLANK**, unless it does not apply.  
Submit form (Word doc) electronically to [jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us](mailto:jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us) by **February 3, 2017**.

*(NOTE: Italicized comments are for reference only. You may delete them when completing form.)*

<b>Project Name</b>	Center Star Exploration
<b>Date the Decision is needed (m/d/y)</b>	June 1, 2017
<b>District name (or "Forestwide")</b>	Red River District
<b>FS Personnel Name, Phone Number and Email</b> <i>If a partnership, please add their name, phone # and email, but <u>an FS employee MUST be the proponent and point of contact.</u></i>	Marty Jones (208) 983-5158  martinjones@fs.fed.us
<b>Legal Location</b> <i>T, R, and Sec must be entered.</i>	T29N, R7E, NW ¼ of Section 35
<b>County(ies) where project located?</b>	Idaho
<b>District Ranger / Line Officer's Name</b> <i>Responsible for signing the Decision document</i>	Terry Nevius
<b>Is this project covered in a current NEPA project?</b>	No
<b>Watershed and subwatershed the project is located?</b> <i>Clearwater, Hangman/Palouse/Rock, Lower North Fork Clearwater, Lochsa</i>	Center Star Creek, Tributary to South Fork Clearwater River

<p><b>In which CE Category does this project fit?</b></p> <p><i>Provide citation (ex. 36CFR 220.6(d)(x) or 36 CFR 220.6(e)(x)).</i>  <i>See - O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\CE Categories</i></p>	<p>(8) Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than 1 mile of low standard road, or use and minor repair of existing roads. Examples include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>(i) Authorizing geophysical investigations which use existing roads that may require incidental repair to reach sites for drilling core holes, temperature gradient holes, or seismic shot holes;</p> <p>(ii) Gathering geophysical data using shot hole, vibroseis, or surface charge methods;</p> <p>(iii) Trenching to obtain evidence of mineralization;</p> <p>(iv) Clearing vegetation for sight paths or from areas used for investigation or support facilities;</p> <p>(v) Redesigning or rearranging surface facilities within an approved site;</p> <p>(vi) Approving interim and final site restoration measures; and</p> <p>(vii) Approving a plan for exploration which authorizes repair of an existing road and the construction of 1/3 mile of temporary road; clearing vegetation from an acre of land for trenches, drill pads, or support facilities</p>
<p><b><u>If submitting using a “36 CFR 220.6 (d)” category above,</u></b> does the DR/Line Officer want a Letter to the File (<i>not scoped to public</i>) or a Decision Memo (<i>scoped to public</i>)?      LTF      DM</p>	
<p><b>List the Management Area(s) in which your project is located.</b></p> <p>MA 12D</p>	

**What are the desired conditions for the Management Area(s)?**

*Desired conditions are the forestwide management area goals and standards described in Chapters 2 & 3 of the Nez Perce and the Clearwater Forest Plans. List all that apply.*

Management Area 12 consists primarily of forested lands. Timber productivity classes 3, 4, 5, and 6 are represented as are a variety of commercially valuable, softwood tree species. A variety of physical and biological environments occur as determined by soil, slope, aspect, elevation (approximately 3,800-6,500 feet), and climatic factors. This management area occurs across the entire nonclassified portion of the Forest. Although this management area consists primarily of productive forest land, there are minor inclusions of nonforest and low productivity forest lands.

**B. Goals**

Manage for timber production and other multiple uses on a sustained yield basis. Develop equal distribution of age classes to optimize sustained timber production. Manage at levels and intensities consistent with the schedules described in this plan to provide for other multiple uses and resources. Manage for roaded natural recreation.

The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 109,444 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 310,544 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 114,225 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning.

**Is the project in a Roadless Area? No**

*\* If yes, answer the questions in the 'Project in Roadless Area' table below, **AND** complete a Briefing Paper - note special requirements for maps. Provide the completed Briefing Paper to Environmental Coordinator and Brian Riggers prior to scoping.*

*(See O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small\_NEPA\_Cat\_Ex\Reference Material\Roadless Rule Info\General Roadless Info for Briefing Paper Info and Template.)*

**Is the project in a congressionally designated area, ex. Wilderness, Wild & Scenic River Corridor, Research Natural Area, Historic Trail, etc.? No**

*If yes, which one(s)?*

*\* If yes, you must contact Carol Hennessey, [cahennessey@fs.fed.us](mailto:cahennessey@fs.fed.us), 935-4270, **BEFORE** submitting this proposal, to discuss how the project may affect the area.*

*1987 Forest Plan maps are found at O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small\_NEPA\_Cat\_Ex\Reference Material\Management Areas*

**Does the project involve road construction, reconstruction, temporary roads, or haul routes?**

Yes\*

*\* If yes, answer the questions in the 'Project Involving Road Construction, Reconstruction, Temporary Roads, or Haul Routes' table below.*

**Are Municipal Watersheds located in the project area? No**

*If yes, which one(s)?*

**Are there floodplains or wetlands in the project area? No**

**Is the project located in an RHCA?** No

**Is the project in the Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area?** No

**Describe the existing condition of the project area.**

The project area lies within a forested area of the Center Star Creek drainage. The area is vegetated with upland vegetation and timber of mixed species. The main adit area is at the upper end of the canyon which contains Center Star Creek.

**What is the Purpose and Need for the proposed action?**

The purpose of the proposed action is to test for gold values on unpatented mining claims. The need is to determine if sufficient quantities of valuable minerals exist to warrant further exploration or development.

**Describe the Proposed Action:**

Greg Schiffrin proposes to reopen the main portal of the Center Star Mine in order to assess the potential for remaining precious metal reserves. The portal will be reopened by means of a track mounted excavator, end loader, and bulldozer as appropriate. Other support vehicles will include pickup trucks, trailers, and ATVs. Once the portal is reopened it will be stabilized and underground work will commence, which will consist of hand sampling and mechanized drilling. There is an existing waste dump at the portal entrance of approximately .5 acres which will serve as a staging area for equipment and which will also contain any waste material produced by excavation.

Once the main portal is successfully opened, a second portal, which connects to the main portal, may also be opened for use as a safety exit. This portal is also accessible by existing road templates which may need to be reconditioned for mechanized access. This portal will be opened in the same manner as the main portal. This portal is located to the southeast and upslope of the main portal.

This work will require reconditioning of approximately 2400 feet of old existing skid trails and mining roads in order to gain access to the mine. This reconditioning will consist of blading and leveling these roads in order to allow access to the portal by equipment. These roads will only be reconditioned to the extent needed for passage by equipment, and will be reclaimed once work has completed. Approximately 20 trees up to 6"-7" DBH and a larger number of small (approximately 2'-12' tall) trees will need to be removed from the old road prism.

The project area will be accessed by taking State Highway 14 from Grangeville, Idaho 37 miles to the Santiam Bridge, then on USFS Road #492 approximately 6 miles to USFS road#1110, then via 1110 to USFS Road #1110C to its terminus. Reconstruction of the access road begins at this point.

Ground disturbance will be limited to previously disturbed road prisms and work areas around the portals. When work is complete, all disturbed areas will be reclaimed, seeded and mulched as necessary, and access roads will be stabilized, waterbars or other drainage structures installed as appropriate, and roads will be seeded and mulched. Disturbed areas will be monitored as needed until revegetation has satisfactorily occurred. A bond will be calculated to cover the amount of reclamation required and will be submitted by the operator before any work begins. This bond will be refunded once all required reclamation is satisfactorily completed.

There will be no changes to access restrictions as the result of this project. Work will take place behind a closed gate on Forest Road #1110 which is closed year round to full sized motorized use. Use of this road will be permitted as a condition of formal approval of this proposal.

This project is proposed to begin during the 2017 work season and is estimated to take one year. Personnel involved is anticipated to be two geologists and a work crew of up to eight persons.

It is not anticipated that any additional permits will be required for this project. If additional permits are required, it will be the operator's responsibility to obtain them, and all needed permits will be in place before work may begin.

**List all design criteria/mitigation measures to be included with the proposed action.**

See summary of proposed action above. Specific design measures will be specified in the formal Plan of Operation approval document

**What Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used with this project?**

State of Idaho Best Management Practices for mining will be adhered to. In addition, a list of standard management practices has been developed for the Forest which will be adhered to as well.

Forest Best Management Practices for water quality and weeds management will also be observed and adhered to.

**Specific\* individuals / groups / businesses who should be contacted (with their mailing and email addresses) during the Scoping Process.**

(\* NOTE: tribal / state / county governments and agencies will already be contacted)

**Please attach to your project submission email, separate from this form, a GIS-generated map or maps of the project area (pdf format only) per the instructions outlined below. Do not give links to maps or datasets. Please make sure that the layers can be turned on/off on your PDF map(s).**

At least one map, with (preferably) a “portrait” orientation, showing the project location/activities as points, e.g. culvert, mineral exploration site, etc.; lines, e.g. fence, road, creek, etc.; and/or the project boundary as a polygon, e.g. stand, treatment area, etc. Do not use a point when treating an area, use a polygon.

The map(s) need to include identifying features, such as towns, roads, trails, rivers/streams, geophysical landmarks, etc. to identify where the project is on the landscape. The features to include are up to you, as long as they are clearly labeled.

Please use the Forest Visitor Map as your map’s base layer (see below\*). This will standardize the appearance of the maps for scoping. Please do not add contour lines to the map unless needed. Contour lines can make the map difficult to read.

The preferred scale is 1:24000; however, if the project area can’t be shown at 1:24K, a map showing the entire project area, and additional maps showing the parts of the project in detail are acceptable. Conversely, if the 1:24K scale is too large (i.e. the location appears as a tiny point or a thin line on a large landscape), use a smaller scale to provide project detail(s) while ensuring that the project location is identifiable.

The map(s) should include, at a minimum, a Title (i.e. the project name - do not include ‘Exhibit A’, etc.); a legend with the feature/activity layer(s) clearly labeled, e.g. culvert, fence line, treatment area, etc.; a scale in miles (not km) using full miles (ex. 0\_0.25\_0.5\_1.0 miles; ending at 0.5 miles okay); and a north arrow.

The main point is, the map(s) should clearly show where the project is located on the Forest and what activity or activities are being proposed.

*\* The Small NEPA geodatabase contains feature classes, including the Forest Visitor Map, that can be used for map creation. The geodatabase is found at:*

T:\FS\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small\_NEPA\_Cat\_Ex\GIS\SmallNEPA.gdb

*If you need help with accessing and/or working with the geodatabase in GIS, contact your Zone GIS Specialist (first) or you can contact Jim Lutes at [jamesrlutes@fs.fed.us](mailto:jamesrlutes@fs.fed.us); 963-4202.*

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## **SHAPEFILES**

*The resource specialists want shapefile(s) of the project’s proposed activity(ies) before they will begin their analyses. The shapefile needs to be labeled with the Project Name and Feature, ex. X culvert replace, X road decom, X thinning area, etc.*

*Please send the shapefile including the following extensions – .dbf, .prj, .sbn, .shp, .shx, and .xml – to [jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us](mailto:jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us) prior to or when submitting this form.*

*Note: A location where the shapefile(s) can be found/downloaded does not meet the obligation. The project shapefile(s) must be submitted per the instructions above or the project will be delayed until they are sent.*

*Note: Providing the shapefile(s) **does not substitute** for providing the map(s).*

**Small NEPA IDT/resource specialists are listed below. Contact them if you have any questions regarding their resource and your project.**

Botany – Mike Hays, [mhays01@fs.fed.us](mailto:mhays01@fs.fed.us); 983-4028

Cultural – Steve Lucas, [slucas@fs.fed.us](mailto:slucas@fs.fed.us); 983-4040

Fisheries – Christine Stewart, [christinestewart@fs.fed.us](mailto:christinestewart@fs.fed.us); 963-4211

Hydrology – Cynthia Valle, [cvalle@fs.fed.us](mailto:cvalle@fs.fed.us); 963-4203

Minerals – Marty Jones, [martinjones@fs.fed.us](mailto:martinjones@fs.fed.us); 983-5158

Recreation – Carol Hennessey, [cahennessey@fs.fed.us](mailto:cahennessey@fs.fed.us); 935-4270

Soils – Robert Bergstrom, [robertbergstrom@fs.fed.us](mailto:robertbergstrom@fs.fed.us); 963-4202 (temporary)

Wildlife – Jim Lutes, [jamesrlutes@fs.fed.us](mailto:jamesrlutes@fs.fed.us); 963-4202

## **Project in Roadless Area**

<p><b>What is the Roadless Area name?</b></p>     <p><i>O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\Roadless Rule Info</i></p>	<p><b>Idaho Roadless Area (IRA) Name:</b></p>     <p><b>Forest Plan IRA Name (if different):</b></p>
<p><b>Identify the Idaho Roadless Management classification because permitted activities vary by classification.</b></p> <p><i>Classifications include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Wild Land Recreation</i></li> <li>• <i>Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance</i></li> <li>• <i>Primitive</i></li> <li>• <i>Backcountry Restoration</i></li> <li>• <i>General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Classification:</b></p>     
<p><b>Does the project involve constructing or reconstructing roads? Yes*</b></p> <p><i>* If yes, see <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2</a> then navigate to Subpart C 294.23</i></p>	
<p><b>Does the project involve cutting trees? Yes*</b></p> <p><i>* If yes, see <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2</a> then navigate to Subpart C 294.24</i></p>	
<p><b>Does the project involve removing minerals, including common variety minerals? Yes*</b></p> <p><i>* If yes, see <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2</a> then navigate to Subpart C 294.25</i></p>	

## Project Involving Road Construction, Reconstruction, Temporary Roads, and/or Haul Routes

Note: Specialists will address items 9-11 (*in italics*) below.

ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS	YES / NO	MITIGATION MEASURE/COMMENTS
1. Will road construction or reconstruction be required? Type of road and length.	Yes	Reconstruction of approximately 2400' of existing skid trails and old mining road templates.
2. Will temporary roads be needed?	No	
3. Will road maintenance be needed? Who will perform?		
4. Will there be a change to the current road restrictions?		
5. Are haul roads part of an established snowmobile network?		
6. Are there public safety concerns for roads, trails, or other road improvements?		
7. Are there other improvements which will require protection?		
8. Does the area currently meet Forest Plan standards for soils?		
9. <i>Will the project impact elk security?</i>		
10. <i>Will the project or log haul impact winter range?</i>		
11. <i>Will the project impact critical elk summer range?</i>		

Additional Information: